



# ***CHICAGO FEB NEWS***

**Chicago Federal Executive Board (FEB) – Joseph P. Galvan, Chairman**

**FEB No. 19-001**

[Gina.Berinde@gsa.gov](mailto:Gina.Berinde@gsa.gov)

(571) 249-8586

<http://www.hud.gov/news/index.cfm>

**FOR RELEASE**

Wednesday

May 8, 2019

## **CHICAGO FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMEMORATES PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK ANNOUNCING FEDERAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

CHICAGO – The Chicago Federal Executive Board (FEB) is pleased to announce the winners of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Federal Employee of the Year Awards. This annual awards program pulls from over 170 federal offices and agencies and over 55,000 federal employees in the Chicago Metropolitan Area. The U.S. federal government is the largest employer in the Chicago metropolitan area.

FEBs were established in 1961 by President Kennedy as a forum for communication and collaboration among Federal agencies outside of Washington, D.C. Today, the national network of 28 FEB offices serves as the cornerstone for strategic partnering in government. FEBs accomplish their mission by fostering collaboration among Federal agencies, state, and local governments.

“Our federal community in Chicago is comprised of over 55,000 employees making it the largest employer in the city which provides a tremendous opportunity to make a significant positive impact in the region,” said Chicago Federal Executive Board Chairman Joseph P. Galvan. “It is an honor to recognize the best and brightest federal employees for their commitment, excellence and dedication in their service delivery to our communities.”

“Federal Employee of the Year award nominees embody the spirit of excellence as trailblazers, leading with integrity and innovation, creating synergies via their dedication to the serving our great nation,” said Gina Rodriguez, Acting Executive Director of the Chicago Federal Executive Board. “It is an honor to recognize outstanding Federal Employees of the Year particularly during Public Service Recognition Week.”

FEB awards represent a broad spectrum of roles and highlight the diversity of public service in our region. This year the FEB honors the courage of many of veterans and others who protect and serve, teams at the heart of healthcare and opioid abuse prevention initiatives and the dedication and ingenuity of our contracting officers, other subject matter experts at the helm of key initiatives.

Winners were selected by a panel of judges comprised of local agency directors who did not have nominees in the category they reviewed. The judges identified employees who stood out for their extraordinary service to the public. In total, the FEB will celebrate nearly 500 nominees and 10 overall winners who had the greatest impact in the region. Congratulations to everyone, nominees and employees.

###

*The Chicago Federal Executive Board's mission is, "to create value to the public by fostering communication, coordination and collaboration with Federal, State, and local government agencies."*

*The FEB Vision is, "Creating partnerships for intergovernmental collaboration."*  
Additional information about the Chicago Federal Executive Board and its programs is available at

<https://Chicago.FEB.gov/>

*Connect with the Chicago FEB via*

Award Category	Last	Agency	Accomplishment Summary
<b>Agency of the Year</b>	Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA)	Department of Health and Human Services	In 2017, 11.4 million people in the United States misused opioids and 49,068 died from opioid overdose. On October 26, 2017, President Trump announced that his Administration was declaring the opioid crisis a national Public Health Emergency. The impact of the opioid crisis is evident across the lifespan, from infants to older adults, and across multiple community sectors, including health, human services, housing, public safety, child welfare, and labor. HHS and SAMHSA instituted the Region 5 Opioid Taskforce for federal interagency approach to addressing the opioid crisis. These efforts became a model to address the opioid crisis through a "one stop shop" for stakeholders with tangible outcomes informing other regional and national initiatives.
<b>Call to Service</b>	Scott Connolly	Environmental Protection Agency	Scott Connolly was recognized for his outstanding work identifying new engineering methods to measure and address emissions of air pollutants from metal shredders.

<b>Career Achievement</b>	Chris Lundstrom	General Services Administration	Throughout her 28-year career at GSA, Chris Lundstrom has led the way in changing how the agency does business, made GSA more efficient and saved American taxpayers money.
<b>Citizens Services Employee</b>	Pamela Jones	Social Security Administration	Through the years, Pamela G. Jones has consistently performed significant volunteer services on the Westside of Chicago and the Western Suburbs. Her focus on improving the lives of our fellow citizens is commendable and she serves as a role model for many.
<b>Citizens Services Team</b>	Hines-Lovell Interfacility TeleAudiology Team	Department of Veterans Affairs	The team from Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital and James Lovell Federal Healthcare Center, aka Team HiLo, were able to create an interfacility telehealth team to provide audiology services for rural veterans at the Hines VA.
<b>Homeland Security and Law Enforcement Team</b>	ICE ERO Detained Unit	Department of Homeland Security	The ICE ERO Detained Unit in Chicago exercises great care and coordination in their operations in light of complexities involved in the process. This unit routinely engages with numerous stakeholders including foreign consulates, embassies and the Office of Personnel Legal Advisors (OPLA). They have received a great deal of cooperation from foreign consulates and have presented cases to the Assistant United States Attorney's Office (AUSAO) for specific prosecutions.
<b>JFK Leadership</b>	Captain Jeffrey A. Coady, Psy.D., ABPP	Department of Health and Human Services	Resources required to address the opioid crisis span far beyond what beyond one agency or department, but rather across the federal government posing a challenge for communities to identify and access the multiple opioid related resources. Captain Jeffery Coady went above and beyond his call of duty by spearheading the implementation of the Region 5 Opioid Taskforce for a federal interagency approach to addressing the opioid crisis.
<b>Management Excellence</b>	Jeanette Lopez-Torralba	General Services Administration	Without the help of real estate broker support as in past years, Zone Executive Jeanette Lopez-Torralba had to implement new requirements, learn and teach a new online system and train her inexperienced team of 20 from the U.S. General Services Administration to provide leasing actions for 34 Area Census Offices, a Regional Census Center and a National Processing Center for the Census Bureau's 2020 effort.

<b>Mission Support Employee</b>	Jennifer Darrow	Environmental Protection Agency	Ms. Darrow partnered with state and local officials to convince a roofing materials plant in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to voluntarily install costly air pollution controls above and beyond what was necessary to achieve compliance with Clean Air Act requirements to address odors and pollution impacting a community.
Mission Support Team	Rapid Response Team at Edward Hines Jr VA Hospital	Department of Veterans Affairs	The new concept of a Rapid Response Team was developed in 2007 at Hines VA with an intent to bring critical level of nursing care to patients anywhere within the hospital setting to prevent an impending code blue situation. Over the past 12 years we expanded the function of this team to assess patients before they deteriorate with a dramatic decrease in the number of code blues and improved overall survival rates, with more that 68% surviving a code blue and 39.5% with 30-day survival.